



INVESTIGATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

All or some of the information you provide may become available to the public.

OMB # (1024-0236)
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Form No. (10-226)

Reporting Year: 2007	Park: Shenandoah NP	Select the type of permit this report addresses: Scientific Study	
Name of principal investigator or responsible official: Gary Fleming		Office Phone: 804-786-9122	
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Additional investigators or key field assistants (first name, last name, office phone, office email) No co-investigators			
Project Title (maximum 300 characters): Collection of additional vegetation plot data for Ver. 2.0 of the Shenandoah National Park Vegetation Map			
Park-assigned Study or Activity #: SHEN-00338	Park-assigned Permit #: SHEN-2007-SCI-0008	Permit Start Date: Jun 18, 2007	Permit Expiration Date: Oct 18, 2007
Scientific Study Starting Date: Jun 18, 2007		Estimated Scientific Study Ending Date: Oct 18, 2007	
For either a Scientific Study or a Science Education Activity, the status is: Continuing		For a Scientific Study that is completed, please check each of the following that applies: <input type="checkbox"/> A final report has been provided to the park or will be provided to the park within the next two years <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of field notes, data files, photos, or other study records, as agreed, have been provided to the park <input type="checkbox"/> All collected and retained specimens have been cataloged into the NPS catalog system and NPS has processed loan agreements as needed	
Activity Type: Inventory			
Subject/Discipline: Plant Communities (Vegetation)			

Purpose of Scientific Study or Science Education Activity during the reporting year (maximum 4000 characters):

Over the winter of 2007-2008, the USGS Biological Resources Division (BRD) and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage (VANHP) will produce Ver. 2.0 of the Shenandoah National Park Vegetation (SHEN) Map, completed initially in 2006. This project, which will be funded by the USGS/NPS Vegetation Mapping Program in Denver, will allow a new and more comprehensive accuracy assessment to be conducted over the summer of 2008. In addition, it will include an update to the existing SHEN vegetation classification to incorporate new data collected during the Rock Outcrop Management Plan (ROMP) inventory, new interpretations of existing data that have been generated during subsequent projects, and a new class representing catastrophically disturbed forests.

One of the vegetation assemblages that was clearly under-represented in the Ver. 1.0 classification and map was the Acidic Cove Forests group. These forests occupy mesic ravines and hollows with infertile soils, and are particularly characteristic of quartzite and granitic substrates in the South and Central Districts. One association in this group was represented in Ver. 1.0, but was not robustly documented. Field observations and re-classification of SHEN data during the NCR Parks vegetation mapping project indicates that stands of Acidic Cove Forest are much more widely distributed than indicated in Ver. 1.0. It is less clear whether one or two associations are present.

VANHP proposes to collect additional plot data during the summer of 2007 to aid in updating this part of the classification and map.

Findings and status of Scientific Study or accomplishments of Science Education Activity during the reporting year (maximum 4000 characters):

During the summer of 2007, 14 plots were sampled in the targeted vegetation types. Soil samples were collected from each plot. No plant specimens were collected. The data were used in the revised classification for Ver. 2.0 of the park vegetation map.

The study is essentially complete, but laboratory analysis of the soil samples has not yet been conducted. The digital data will be delivered to the park later this year after soil analysis has been completed.

For Scientific Studies (not Science Education Activities), were any specimens collected and removed from the park but not destroyed during analysis?

No

Funding specifically used in this park this reporting year that was provided by NPS (enter dollar amount):

\$0

Funding specifically used in this park this reporting year that was provided by all other sources (enter dollar amount):

\$0

List any other U.S. Government Agencies supporting this study or activity and the funding each provided this reporting year:

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.625 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the forms. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Dr. John G. Dennis, Natural Resources (3127 MIB), National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.